

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security today approved by voice vote its version of the department's funding bill, including \$39.9 billion in discretionary funding.

Congressman Sam Farr (D-Carmel), who sits on the subcommittee, succeeded in including \$2 million to continue funding the California Homeland Security Consortium, a project spearheaded by Monterey's Naval Postgraduate School. The consortium is a partnership of 23 academic, federal, state and local government organizations, along with private sector firms, that is centered on the Monterey Bay peninsula.

"The kind of collaborative work that the consortium does is a model that can be copied around the country," Rep. Farr said. "NPS is a world class research institution and Congress is wise to continue funding these cutting-edge programs that help keep our country safe. To me, Homeland Security means hometown security, and supporting our first responders is a big responsibility."

The bill also included language that recommends fully funding NPS's graduate-level homeland security education programs. These funds are vital for the school to continue providing the nation's national security research university.

Rep. Farr also supported several provisions in the bill that will bolster our border security:

- \$37.7 million to fund 734 new Customs and Border Protection officers, helping compensate for a deficit of more than 850 officers the agency now faces for passenger processing.
- \$10 million for Customs and Border Protection to expand the United States Passenger Accelerated Service System program to 20 airports for screening low-risk international air travelers.
- \$1 million to improve the country's visa waiver program.

This bill will next be brought before the full House of Representatives for a vote. The inclusion of these projects is an important step in securing final funding for the projects.

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